



Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Consultative Examinations, Inc.

File: B-266090

Date: September 27, 1995

DECISION

Consultative Examinations, Inc. protests the terms of request for proposals (RFP) No. 95-B-1 issued by the Railroad Retirement Board. Consultative contends that the RFP lacks specific and measurable standards, and that there is a problem with converting from on-site to off-site services.

We dismiss the protest as untimely filed on September 12, 1995, because it challenges an alleged impropriety in the solicitation that should have been protested before the initial closing time for submission of proposals on May 30.

Our Bid Protest Regulations contain strict rules requiring timely submission of protests. These rules specifically require that protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation which are apparent prior to the closing date for receipt of initial proposals must be filed prior to the closing time. 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(a)(1); Engelhard Corp., B-237824, Mar. 23, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 324.

These timeliness rules reflect the dual requirements of giving parties a fair opportunity to present their cases and resolving protests expeditiously without unduly disrupting or delaying the procurement process. Air Inc.-Request for Recon., B-238220.2, Jan. 29, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 129. In order to prevent these rules from becoming meaningless, exceptions are strictly construed and rarely used. Id.

The protest is dismissed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald Berger", is written over the typed name.

Ronald Berger
Associate General Counsel

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